

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 13, 17 and 20 are amended herewith. Claim 3 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shiotsu et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,993,358).

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicant’s independent claims include limitations that are not disclosed in Shiotsu. As a result, applicant’s claims are patentable over Shiotsu. In particular, Applicant’s independent claims includes the limitation, or limitation similar thereto, of:

a surface including a set of contact points, the surface to couple to a first through the at least one contact point to couple to a second device through a second contact point, to establish communication between the first device and the second device through the surface for data exchange, wherein the first and second devices do not include aerial wireless data capabilities.

The limitations set forth above, utilizing a surface to facilitate data exchange between two devices not having wireless data capabilities is not suggested in Shiotsu. Rather, Shiotsu is limited to direct communication between two devices having wireless communication capabilities, for example, Shiotsu discusses:

A personal computer 1 includes a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses or transceivers for communication with a plurality of other information processing devices. The wireless transceivers are in the form of built-in module and respectively connected to antennas 111, 112, and 114. ... The personal computer 1 can transfer data to and from a peripheral device having a similar wireless communication unit,

e.g., a digital camera 5, a facsimile machine, or a printer 6 via wireless modules or cards based on the Bluetooth Standard. The personal computer 1 may also transfer data from an information processing device with a similar wireless communication unit, e.g., an electronic note (PDA) 4 or another personal computer 3 via the Bluetooth wireless modules or cards ... (Column 6 lines 5-23, *emphasis added*).

Other examples can be found throughout Shiotsu.

As stated above, Shiotsu discusses direct communication between devices having wireless communication capabilities, rather than communication via a surface between two devices not necessarily having wireless communication capabilities as claimed in applicant's independent claim 1. Thus, Applicant's independent claims are not anticipated by Shiotsu.

Furthermore, the remaining claims are dependent claims that include the distinguishing limitations of the independent claims, as discussed above. Therefore, applicant's dependent claims are also not anticipated by Shiotsu.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John P. Ward at (650) 328-8500.

Respectfully submitted,
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